

A few weeks ago The Commoner published an article written by Mrs. Merriweather for a St. Louis paper, giving Wycliffe credit for originating the phrase government "of the people, by the people and for the people." In that article it was stated incidentally that Wycliffe made the first complete translation of the Bible. A reader of The Commoner takes exceptions to the latter statement, and says that the first complete translation of the Bible was made by the Benedictine Monks. I leave this question of fact to be determined by those who are interested in it, merely presenting the statement on both sides.

If the Hon. Henry Watterson intends to run for president on the democratic ticket for the purpose of "harmonizing" the forces, he would better communicate with the editor of The Democrat of Albion, Ind. That paper says that Mr. Watterson "is about as much of a democrat as Boss Platt of New York," and that he has "no more right to be the democratic candidate for president than Matt Quay of Pennsylvania." Either Mr. Watterson's friends are mistaken about his politics, or the editor of the Albion Democrat is grossly in error. These differences ought to be "harmonized" before the campaign opens.

Subscribers are constantly making suggestions in regard to the extension of the paper's influence. One urges that some plan be adopted for "the universal circulation of The Commoner" in order that the democratic voters everywhere may be kept informed on political questions. The business manager of the paper is willing to use every legitimate means to enlarge the subscription list, but he must depend largely upon the friendly activity of the readers. Mr. Bryan is not willing to resort to the lottery plan or to any other questionable means. A newspaper ought to be supported because of its merits and if it does not commend itself to the reading public it has no reason for existence.

One of the readers of The Commoner living at Port Townsend, Wash., writes that on the first day of October, 1900, he purchased in San Francisco ten tons of salt, such as is used in curing hides, and paid \$3.25 per ton, that being the regular price when purchases were made in that quantity. A year later, October, 1901, he bought the same kind of salt in the same quantity at the same place and paid \$14.50 per ton, and yet there are republicans who think that the salt trust is a private affair and a matter of no concern to the public. How long will the producing masses and the small merchants submit to the highway robbery practiced by private monopolies under the protection of the republican party?

A reader of The Commoner asks why the newspapers do not say as much against our war in the Philippines as against the English war in South Africa against the Boers. The fact is that nearly all the papers that oppose England's policy in South Africa also oppose a war of conquest in the Philippines. The republican papers that support the administration's policy of imperialism are in a position where their readers would recognize the inconsistency if the papers had much to say in favor of the Boers. This is one of the disastrous results of imperialism. If it does not paralyze the conscience of the American people it prevents them from expressing sympathy with any people who are fighting for liberty.

"Enybody kin whip a elefant when thair aint no elefants around," remarked Josh Billings. The remark has a deep significance to all who study it closely. Men who denounce governmental abuses for political effect, and then make no effort to reform those abuses when opportunity affords are men who boast that they can whip

elephants—when there are no elephants around. To stand up and argue for governmental control of trusts amidst the plaudits of a great crowd, and then assume responsibility and refuse or neglect to carry out the ideas expressed in public addresses, is a species of elephant fighting in which the elephant is conspicuous by its absence. When the elephant is present there is no sign of strife.

It is not difficult to obtain today in London testimony from loyal Englishmen that the prophecy of President Kruger has already been fulfilled. Mr. Kruger said that if England conquered the Boers, it would be at "a price that would stagger humanity." The British taxpayer is already staggering under the load. The Englishman's conception of morality is already revolting at the barbarous methods practiced upon the helpless wives and children of the Boer patriots, while the dignity, honor and standing of Great Britain before the civilized nations of the earth is seriously threatened.

"Let well enough alone" was the campaign slogan given out by Mr. Hanna, and it was taken up and echoed and re-echoed by republicans everywhere. And nowhere was it shouted louder than in Iowa. The majority for "let well enough alone" in Iowa was nearly 100,000, but the men who gave the slogan to the party refuse to abide by it. Within ten days after the election the managers of the glucose trust in Chicago ordered the closing down of the glucose works at Marshalltown, Ia., throwing 300 men out of employment just as winter is coming on. Now that these 300 men are idle it would be interesting to know what they think about the "let well enough alone" campaign slogan.

Veterans of the civil war will learn with regret of the death of Mother Bickerdyke. She was one of the most famous nurses during that war, and she was known in almost every camp and hospital. Before her officialism trembled, and red tape was cut with a speed that fairly dazed its manufacturers. When she wanted something for "the boys" she got it by hook or by crook, and many is the man who owes his life to the kindly ministrations of Mother Bickerdyke. It is related of her that she gave attention to blue and gray alike. Her tongue was as sharp as her hands and heart were tender. The work this little woman performed for four weary years was almost incredible. She died at her home in Bunker Hill, Kas., a few days ago, and in every community in all this broad land there are hearts that mourn her death.

There are deep, dark hints afloat to the effect that another bitter fight is to be precipitated over the New York customs collectorship. That fat office has been a source of great trouble to every new president, and to it is attributed the most bitter political feud ever precipitated within a party's ranks in the state of New York. It was over the office of collector of the port of New York that Platt and Conkling made their bitter fight upon Garfield. Conkling insisted upon the appointment of a friend, and Garfield appointed another man. Conkling fought it out in the senate and was defeated. In anger and disgust he resigned the senatorship, and his colleague, Senator Platt, followed his example. The struggle between the "stalwart" and "half-breed" factions of the republican party in New York state, following the resignations of Conkling and Platt, is historic, and there are thousands who believe that in the bitterness of this struggle was born the insane desire of Guiteau to assassinate Garfield.

A reader of The Commoner asks for a word on the value of influence. Influence may be divided into two kinds, good and bad, and all know that both are potent. When we keep our children out of bad company we recognize that evil associations exert a corrupting influence upon all who submit themselves to such associations. We may not emphasize as much as we should the value of good influence, but we have scripture as well as observation to support the doctrine that there is nothing more powerful than the influence of an upright life. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, etc.," is proof of the good that can be done by example. We should be as careful to give others the benefit of a good influence as to secure a benefit from theirs. The life of each person is so interwoven with the life of others that no one can be sure that any act will be without an influence, hence the importance of striving to make that influence helpful.

The free coinage of silver would not flood this country with the white metal because the only silver that could come here would be silver coin or silver bullion. Coin is worth more in Europe than it would be worth here and therefore would not come. For instance, France has about as much silver as we have, and it circulates at the ratio of 15½ to 1, while our silver circulates at the ratio of 16 to 1. French silver would, therefore, lose three cents on the dollar if it was brought here, and the same is true of almost all of the coined silver of the world. There is very little bullion silver, and the moment our mints were opened it could be brought here, and because it could be brought here it would be worth abroad the American price less the cost of transportation, and as it could be exchanged at that price there would be no necessity of its being brought here. The chances are that very little of it would come. Europe and Asia do not produce as much silver as they use every year. The United States and Central and South America produce almost all of the silver, and we would export silver from the western hemisphere, even under free and unlimited coinage. Many people have been frightened about the flooding of this country with silver, but there has never been any danger of the flood and is not now. The above is in answer to the inquiry of a subscriber.

A reader of The Commoner asks what was the object of those who precipitated the panic of 1893. The panic of that year was not brought on intentionally; that is, those who were responsible for it did not intend that the scare should go so far as it did. When Mr. Cleveland was elected the financiers at once demanded the unconditional repeal of the Sherman law. There is no positive proof that an understanding existed between the financiers and Mr. Cleveland prior to the election, but subsequent things strongly point to such an agreement. In order to force members of congress to support the repeal bill, the financiers curtailed loans, drew in money and talked of the possibility of a panic. The result was that the pressure went further than they intended to carry it, and they were powerless to stop the movement that they were largely responsible for starting. The panic came at a time when the bankers held notes secured by property which was falling in value, and in many cases the fall in prices extinguished the margin between the banks' assets and its liabilities. The financiers are now engaged in doing much as they were doing prior to the panic of '93. They first demanded that the treasury notes be declared redeemable in gold and then they demanded their retirement. Now they are demanding that the silver dollar be made redeemable in gold and they will next demand its retirement. Whether they will carry their present demand as far as they did their former one remains to be seen.